

address of the external apparatus which is determined as the apparatus not to be responded to in the tenth step.

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26. A LAN system comprising an intelligent interconnecting device having a function of repeating a packet which is transmitted/received between a plurality of computers and being structured to be controllable by an external apparatus based on a TCP/IP protocol, the intelligent interconnecting device being connected to a LAN trunk line while the plurality of computers being connected to the intelligent interconnecting device,

wherein said intelligent interconnecting device is an intelligent interconnecting device according to claim 16.

27. A LAN system comprising an intelligent interconnecting device having a function of repeating a packet which is transmitted/received between a plurality of computers and being structured to be controllable by an external apparatus based on a TCP/IP protocol, the intelligent interconnecting device being

connected to a LAN trunk line while the plurality of computers being connected to the intelligent interconnecting device,

wherein said intelligent interconnecting device is an intelligent interconnecting device according to claim 17.

28. A LAN system comprising an intelligent interconnecting device having a function of repeating a packet which is transmitted/received between a plurality of computers and being structured to be controllable by an external apparatus based on a TCP/IP protocol, the intelligent interconnecting device being connected to a LAN trunk line while the plurality of computers being connected to the intelligent interconnecting device,

wherein said intelligent interconnecting device is an intelligent interconnecting device according to claim 18.

29. A LAN system comprising an intelligent interconnecting device having a function of repeating a packet which is transmitted/received between a plurality of computers and being

structured to be controllable by an external
apparatus based on a TCP/IP protocol, the
intelligent interconnecting device being
connected to a LAN trunk line while the plurality
5 of computers being connected to the intelligent
interconnecting device,

wherein said intelligent interconnecting
device is an intelligent interconnecting device
according to claim 20.

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30. A LAN system comprising an intelligent
interconnecting device having a function of
repeating a packet which is transmitted/received
between a plurality of computers and being
15 structured to be controllable by an external
apparatus based on a TCP/IP protocol, the
intelligent interconnecting device being
connected to a LAN trunk line while the plurality
of computers being connected to the intelligent
20 interconnecting device,

wherein said intelligent interconnecting
device is an intelligent interconnecting device
according to claim 21.

25 31. A LAN system comprising an intelligent